

Docket No. AT9-98-464

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data
2 processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 sending a query for a meta definition of a data object; and
4 processing the data object according to attributes in the meta definition for the
5 data object.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising, before querying for a
2 meta definition of a data object, determining an object type of a data object.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising receiving the meta
2 definition for the data object prior to the step of processing the data object.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the software component is in a
2 client.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the query for the meta definition for
2 the data object is sent to a Meta Data Service.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the meta definition is cached to
2 improve the performance of the Meta Data Service.

1 7. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data
2 processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 receiving a query for a meta definition of a data object; and
4 sending a meta definition of a data object in response to the query for the meta
5 definition.

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1 8. A method according to claim 7 further comprising storing at least one meta
2 definition of a data object.

1 9. A method according to claim 7 further comprising at least one object attribute
2 in the meta definition of the data object.

1 10. The method according to claim 7 wherein the software component is a Meta
2 Data Service.

1 11. The method according to claim 10 wherein the meta definition for the data
2 object is sent to a software component residing in a client.

1 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the meta definition is cached to
2 improve the performance of the Meta Data Service.

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